

HONORING BRENDA LOVE FOR HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AS A MEMBER OF THE WARREN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman of great perseverance and determination, minority business owner Mrs. Brenda Love.

Originally of New Orleans, Louisiana, Mrs. Love and her family relocated to Vicksburg, Mississippi when she was fourteen years old. At an early age, Mrs. Love's mother instilled in her the importance of hard work and dedication. These values coupled with savvy business sense have earned Mrs. Love distinction as one of Warren County's most influential business owners.

For more than 15 years, Mrs. Love has served as a model figure in the business community. She has extended services to her community as a trusted income service provider through her business, Love Income Tax Services. She and her husband are also owners of two other local businesses, Unique Impressions Restaurant and Lounge and Unique Banquet Hall, which provides event space for residents looking to host events in the Vicksburg area.

Mrs. Love is a respected member of the general community as well. Outside of her other businesses, Mrs. Love thrives as a realtor associate with Coldwell Banker All Stars. She is also a member of the Warren County Board of Realtors, and the board for the Vicksburg Convention Center and City Auditorium.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a minority business owner, Mrs. Brenda Love, for her leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and invaluable contributions to Warren County as a valued member of the business community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SPECIALIST DWAYNE W. FLORES, GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARDSMAN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and service of Guam Army National Guardsman Specialist Dwayne Westfall Flores from the village of Sinajana, Guam. Specialist Flores was one of the 600 Guam Army National Guard soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion—294th Infantry Regiment that were recently deployed to Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On May 16, 2013 Specialist Flores was killed during a suicide car bomb attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was 22 years old.

Specialist Flores was born on February 26, 1991 to Leonardo Arriola Flores and Eva Westfall Flores. Specialist Flores devoted every Sunday as an altar server at the 5:45 a.m. mass at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica in Haga. In his civilian employment, Specialist Flores worked as a body repairman for LamLam Tours, a tour bus operations company.

After graduating from George Washington High School, Specialist Flores enlisted in the Guam Army National Guard on May 19, 2008 and served as a Human Resources Specialist and was assigned to Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment. This was his first deployment.

For his service and performance, Specialist Flores received numerous awards and achievements, including the Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge, Guam Cross of Valor and Overseas Service Bar.

I join our community in mourning the loss of Specialist Flores, and I extend my deepest condolences to his parents, Leonardo and Eva; his siblings, Stephanie Westfall Flores Taitano and Steven Westfall Flores; and his extended family, close friends, and loved ones.

Specialist Flores served with honor and distinction, and like the many sons and daughter of Guam who served before him, he gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. Our nation will be eternally grateful for his service.

May God bless the family and friends of Specialist Dwayne Westfall Flores and may God bless the men and women of our United States Armed Forces and keep them safe.

HONORING REVEREND WILLIE E. BLUE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a civil rights activist and known legend from Mississippi, Rev. Willie Blue. He is from Charleston, Mississippi.

Civil rights and the movement was a necessary part of American culture. It helped to seal cracks in the American society by making great improvements in its foundation and Rev. Willie E. Blue was a part of that effort.

In 1963 he joined SNCC (Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee). SNCC was founded by Ella Baker at Shaw University as a direct response to segregated public facilities. SNCC's aim was to desegregate those public facilities by organizing "Sit-ins". From 1963–1966 he was the field secretary for SNCC and he has worked alongside people

like Julian Bond, Stokely Carmichael, Kwame Ture, Bob Moses, and Hollis Watkins to name a few. He became a member of the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement in 2007.

Although the years have passed since the start of the Civil Rights Movement, Rev. Blue has continued his efforts by working with young people to make sure they are educated on the movement and its contribution to society. He is building the fire inside of them to continue the fight for a better America for all citizens. "It's their turn now" he says, "and the veterans have to show them the way."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Willie E. Blue for his dedication to fighting oppression, discrimination, and injustice in Mississippi.

HONORING ELIZABETH MICHELLE WOODS FOR HER CONTINUED SERVICE TO HER COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran from the Mississippi Delta, Sergeant Elizabeth Michelle Woods.

Ms. Woods's desire to serve her country began at an early age. As a senior in high school she joined the ranks of the United States Army Reserves and served eight years with the 479th Ordnance Company.

Following her tenure with the 479th Ordnance Company, Sergeant Woods served as assistant squad leader during a tour of duty in Operation Desert Storm. Not only did Sergeant Woods return home a decorated soldier with distinctions such as the U.S. Army Achievement Medal and the U.S. Army Certificate of Achievement, but she also obtained an Associate of Arts Degree in Social Work.

As a result of her tireless work and leadership over her twelve years of service to her country, Sergeant Woods garnered the status of sergeant promotionable along with an Honorable Discharge. After her military service, she continued her educational pursuits and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work, a Masters Degree in Social Work, and an Executive Masters of Science Degree in Health Administration.

Sergeant Wood's knowledge of social work and love of serving her community inspired her to enter the field of victim advocacy and develop a Crime Victims Assistance Program within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and serve as Director of Social Work at the Delta Health Center and Aaron Henry Health Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Elizabeth Woods for her dedication to serving our country and her community.